

obscured. In summer a rufous tinge diffuses itself over the entire bird, especially on the lores, eyebrows, and under parts, leaving, however, the centre of the belly nearly white.

They leave us for the north in spring, few, if any, remaining to breed.

✓ 80. *ANTHUS CERVINUS*, Pall.

A. pratensis japonicus, 'Fauna Japonica'?

Visits Formosa in large numbers during winter, accomplishes its vernal moult, and leaves us in April and beginning of May. This transformation of the winter into the summer plumage is not made by a changing of colour in the feathers, but by an entire moult even to the quills of the wings and tail. When the summer plumage is completed, no traces are left of the black spots and streaks on the throat and breast, which become a deep clear vinaceous. A few streaks, however, usually remain on the flanks.

✓ 81. *ANTHUS RICHARDI*, Vieill.

A very rare straggler to Formosa, though a common winter bird in South China.

[To be continued.]

XXVI.—*Synopsis of the known Species of Dacnis.*

By P. L. SCLATER.

(Plate VII.)

MR. LAWRENCE having kindly forwarded to me for inspection specimens of both sexes of a new *Dacnis*, which he has lately described in the 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York,' as mentioned *anteà* (p. 110), I take the opportunity of giving a figure of this beautiful bird, and a short synopsis of the species of the genus, so far as I have any knowledge of them. My former papers relating to the same subject will be found in 'Contributions to Ornithology,' 1851, p. 106, and in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1854 (p. 253).

The twelve species of the genus *Dacnis* with which I am now acquainted may be divided as follows:—

a. Ventre et crisso concoloribus ..	α. Ventre cæruleo: mento nigro	1. <i>D. cayana</i> .
		2. <i>D. cærebicolor</i> .
	β. Ventre albo	3. <i>D. nigripes</i> .
		4. <i>D. melanotis</i> .
	γ. Ventre nigro	5. <i>D. angelica</i> .
b. Ventre albicante; crisso rufo	δ. Ventre flavissimo	6. <i>D. venusta</i> .
		7. <i>D. egregia</i> .
	ε. Ventre albicante	8. <i>D. flaviventris</i> .
		9. <i>D. pulcherrima</i> .
		10. <i>D. plumbea</i> .
		11. <i>D. leucogenys</i> .
		12. <i>D. speciosa</i> .

They are all easily characterized species, as will be seen by the short characters which I have appended to each. I should mention that Dr. Cabanis, who has lately obtained for the Berlin Museum a species of my *Dacnis hartlaubi* (described P. Z. S. 1857, p. 251), has convinced me that this bird, although it closely resembles *Dacnis melanotis* in colouring, is a true *Caliste*. I have therefore not included it in my present list.

The genus *Dacnis* and its congeners of the family Cœrebidæ seem to represent the Nectariniidæ of the Old World in the Neotropical Region. They may, however, be easily recognized by the entire absence of the first spurious primary, which is present in *Nectarinia*, *Dicaeum*, and their affines. In this respect they agree with the Tanagridæ and Mnioiltidæ, with some forms of each of which families *Dacnis* may be easily confounded. But from the former *Dacnis* may be separated by its sharp-pointed bill and the entire absence of any notch in the upper mandible, and from the latter by the want of rictal bristles. The feathered tongue of the Cœrebidæ is a characteristic which, if observable in a skin, easily distinguishes it from both these groups.

The range of *Dacnis* is restricted to the hot tropical forests of South America, one species only extending up to the Isthmus of Panama. The valleys in the neighbourhood of Bogota appear to produce a greater number of species than any other locality we are acquainted with; but this may probably be owing to the fact that no other part of the Andean range has been so thoroughly worked. Six species occur in Bogota collections. Western Ecuador produces only two, both of which vary slightly

in colour from the same bird received from Bogota, but are not specifically separable. In the forests of the Peruvian Amazon five species are found, and four of these were also obtained by D'Orbigny in Bolivia, on the upper confluent of the same river. S.E. Brazil possesses only the two widely distributed *D. cayana* and *D. plumbea*, and the peculiar *D. nigripes*. Guiana and Cayenne have the two first-named species, together with *D. speciosa* and *D. melanotis*. From Venezuela I have only seen examples of *D. plumbea* and *D. cayana*; but it is probable that *D. melanotis*, and perhaps *D. speciosa*, likewise occur there.

The following table gives the distribution of the twelve species of *Dacnis* in a concise form:—

	Panama.	Bogota.	Western Ecuador.	Peruvian Amazon.	Bolivian Amazon.	S.E. Brazil.	Guiana and Cayenne.	Vene- zuela.
1. <i>cayana</i>		—		—	—	—	—	—
2. <i>cœrebicolor</i>		—						
3. <i>nigripes</i> ..						—		
4. <i>melanotis</i> ..				—	—		—	
5. <i>angelica</i> ..		—						
6. <i>venusta</i>	—							
7. <i>egregia</i>		—	—					
8. <i>flaviventris</i> .				—	—			
9. <i>pulcherrima</i>		—	—					
10. <i>plumbea</i> ..				—		—	—	—
11. <i>leucogenys</i> ..		—						
12. <i>speciosa</i> ..				—	—		—	
	1	6	2	5	4	3	4	2

Concerning the habits, nidification, &c., of the species of *Dacnis* very little has as yet been recorded. They appear to live in small flocks in the tops of the highest trees in the forests, flitting from branch to branch, and searching for food. Prince Max. of Neuwied describes this, in the case of *D. cayana*, as being mostly fruit; but D'Orbigny speaks of the species met with in Bolivia as feeding entirely on insects.

1. DACNIS CAYANA.

Motacilla cayana, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 336; Buff. Pl. Enl. 669. f. 1 (♂) et 578. f. 1 (♂). *Motacilla cyanocephala*, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 990. *Dacnis cyanocephalus*, D'Orb. Voy. Ois. p. 221. *Fringilla cyanomelas*, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 924. *Certhia spiza*,

var., Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 476 (♀). *Nectarinia bicolor*, Beckl. Nouv. Mém. Soc. Mosc. i. p. 378. *Cæreba cærulea*, Max. Beitr. ii. p. 766. *Dacnis cyanater*, Less. Tr. d'Orn. p. 458. *Dacnis cyanomelas*, Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 153. *Dacnis cyanomelas* et *Dacnis cayana*, Reichenb. Handb. pp. 226, 227. *Dacnis cayana*, Strickl. Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 15; Sclater, Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 106, et P.Z.S. 1854, pp. 110, 252, 1855, p. 137, 1857, p. 263, et 1858, p. 452; Bp. Consp. p. 400.

♂. Viridescenti-cærulea: fronte, gula, dorso medio, alis et cauda nigris: alis cæruleo limbatis: rostro carneo, pedibus pallide carneis: long. tota 4·2, alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·6, poll. et dec. Angl.

♀. Viridis; pileo cærulescente; gula cinerea.

Hab. Widely diffused from New Granada and Venezuela, through Cayenne and the whole Amazon valley, into southern Brazil: vicinity of Ega, Upper Amazon (*Bates*): received in Bogota collections: Bolivian Amazon (*D'Orb.*): Chamicurros, on the Huallaga (*Hauxwell*).

Obs. D'Orbigny met with this species in the province of Yungas, in the environs of Sta. Cruz de la Sierra, and in the countries inhabited by the Yuracares and Guarayo Indians in Bolivia.

2. DACNIS CÆREBICOLOR.

Dacnis cærebicolor, Sclater, Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 106, et P.Z.S. 1854, p. 252, et 1855, p. 137. *Arbelorhina cærebicolor*, Reichenb. Handb. p. 236.

♂. Purpureo-cærulea: fronte, gula, dorso medio, alis et cauda nigris: alis dorsi colore limbatis: rostro et pedibus carneis: long. tota 3·5, alæ 2·8, caudæ 1·9.

♀. Viridis: mento cinereo: pileo cæruleo.

Hab. Only seen in collections received from Bogota.

Obs. The distribution of colours in this species is exactly the same as in *D. cayana*; but its purple-blue coloration renders it distinguishable *primo visu*.

3. DACNIS NIGRIPES.

Dacnis nigripes, v. Pelzeln, Sitzungsab. Acad. Wien, 1856, xx. p. 157; Sclater, P.Z.S. 1857, p. 263.

♂. Thalassino-cærulea: gula, fronte, interscapulio, alis et cauda

nigris, his cæruleo limbatis: rostro et pedibus nigris: long. tota 4·4, alæ 2·3, caudæ 1·5.

♀. Sordide olivacea: uropygio cærulescente: subtus fulva.

Hab. S.E. Brazil; vicinity of Nuovo Friborgo (*Beske*).

Obs. Easily distinguishable by its black bill and feet and short tail, though much resembling *D. cayana*.

4. DACNIS MELANOTIS.

Sylvia cayana γ, Lath. Ind. Orn. p. 546. *Sylvia cayana*, Vieill. Gal. Ois. pl. 165. *Dacnis cayana*, D'Orb. et Lafr. Mag. de Zool. 1837, p. 20; Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 37; Cab. in Schomb. Guian. iii. p. 675; Bp. Consp. p. 400; Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 153. *Dacnis angelica*, Slater, Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 107, et P. Z. S. 1854, pp. 110, 252, et 1857, p. 263. *Dacnis melanotis*, Strickl. Contr. Orn. 1851, p. 16.

♂. Thalassino-cyanea: fronte lata, lateribus capitis et cervicis, interscapulio, alis et cauda nigris: ventre medio et crisso albis: rostro et pedibus nigris: long. tota 3·2, alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·5.

♀. Sordide olivacescenti-brunnea, subtus dilutior.

Hab. Cayenne and valley of Amazon, southwards to S.E. Brazil; wood-region of Peru (*Tschudi*); once near Lagoa Santa, in S.E. Brazil (*Burmeister*); forests of the Yuracares Indians, Bolivia (*D'Orb.*); River Ucayali (*Hauxwell*).

5. DACNIS ANGELICA.

Dacnis angelica, De Filippi, Cat. Mus. Mediol. (1840); Bp. Consp. p. 400; Slater, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 137. *Dacnis archangelica*, Bp. Cat. Ois. de Cayenne, p. 7.

Præcedenti simillima, sed colore cæruleo lætiore!

Hab. New Granada.

Obs. This is merely a local variety of the former species; but as it may be easily recognized on comparison, I allow it to stand as if it were specifically distinct.

6. DACNIS VENUSTA. (Plate VII.)

Dacnis venusta, Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. N. H. New York, Feb. 10, 1862.

♂. Nigerrima: capite postico, lateribus cervicis, dorsi parte media, et dorso postico toto cum scapularibus nitide cæru-

leis : tibiis coccineis : rostro et pedibus nigris : long. tota 4·5, alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·7.

♀. Sordide viridescens, uropygio cærulescente : subtus ochracea, gula cinerascens.

Hab. Isthmus of Panama.

7. DACNIS EGREGIA.

Dacnis egregia, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1854, p. 251, 1855, p. 137, et 1860, pp. 65, 292 ; Cat. Am. Birds, pl. 7.

♂. Thalassino-cærulea : fronte et fascia per oculos lata cum capitis lateribus, nucha et dorso superiore, alis caudaque nigris : scapularibus et secundariorum marginibus externis dorso concoloribus : subalaribus et ventre medio, crisso et tibiis flavissimis : long. tota 4·3, alæ 2·5, caudæ 1·5.

♀. Fuscescenti-olivacea, abdomine flavo.

Hab. Interior of New Granada (received in Bogota collections) : Western Ecuador, Nanegal and Esmeraldas (*Fraser*).

Obs. Mr. Fraser's examples from Ecuador have more greenish-blue colouring than the Bogota skins.

8. DACNIS FLAVIVENTRIS.

Dacnis flaviventris, D'Orb. et Lafr. Mag. de Zool. 1837, p. 31 ; D'Orb. Voy. Ois. p. 220 ; Bp. Consp. p. 400 ; Sclater, Contr. Orn. 1851, pp. 108-114, et P. Z. S. 1854, p. 252, et 1857, p. 263. *Conirostrum flaviventre*, Reichenb. Handb. p. 229.

♂. Aureo-flava : pileo læte viridi : fronte, capitis lateribus, dorso superiore, alis et cauda cum gula media nigris : rostro et pedibus nigris : long. tota 4·5, alæ 2·5, caudæ 1·5.

♀ ignota.

Hab. Upper Amazon, Rio Jauari, 40 miles above Tabatinga (*Bates*) : forests of the Yuracares, at the eastern foot of the Bolivian Andes (*D'Orb.*).

9. DACNIS PULCHERRIMA.

Dacnis pulcherrima, Sclater, Rev. Zool. 1853, p. 479, et P. Z. S. 1854, p. 252, et 1855, pp. 84, 137 ; Cat. Am. Birds, pl. 8. *Nemosia torquata*, DuBus, Bull. Acad. Brux. xxii. p. 155 (1855).

♂. Capite undique cum gula, alis et cauda nigris, alis extus cæruleo limbatis : semitorque collari postico flavo : dorso superiore medio, inferiore toto cum reliquo corpore subtus

pallide aurescenti-viridi, ventre medio albicantiore : rostro nigro, basi mand. inf. pallida, pedibus corylinis.

♀ ignota.

Hab. Interior of New Granada (received in Bogota collections).

10. DACNIS PLUMBEA.

Sylvia plumbea, Lath. Ind. Orn. ii. p. 553. *Dacnis plumbea*, Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 236 ; Selater, Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 102, et P. Z. S. 1854, p. 252 ; Reichenb. Handb. p. 228 ; Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 155.

♂. Cærulescenti-plumbea : subtus fuscescenti-cinerea, ventre medio albescentiore : rostro et pedibus carnis : long. tota 4·7, alæ 2·4, caudæ 1·4.

♀. Mari similis, sed coloribus dilutioribus, et subtus magis ochraceus.

Hab. S.E. Brazil (*Burm.*) ; and extending through the Amazon valley into Guiana and Venezuela : eastern wood-region of Peru (*Tschudi*).

11. DACNIS LEUCOGENYS.

Dacnis leucogenys, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1852, p. 470.

♂. Plumbeo-cærulea, subtus dilutior, ventre albescente : pileo nigro, macula auriculari alba : crisso castaneo : rostro et pedibus corylinis : long. tota 3·6, alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·5.

♀ ignota.

Hab. New Granada ; occasionally received in Bogota collections.

12. DACNIS SPECIOSA.

Sylvia speciosa, Max. Beitr. iii. p. 706. *Dacnis speciosa*, Selater, Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 101, et P. Z. S. 1854, p. 252 ; Reichenb. Handb. p. 228. *Dacnis analis*, Lafr. et D'Orb. Mag. de Zool. 1837, p. 21. *Sylvicola speciosa* et *Dacnis analis*, Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. pp. 117, 155.

♂. Plumbescenti-cærulea, subtus valde dilutior, ventre medio albescente : crisso castaneo.

♀ mari similis ?

Hab. British Guiana and Amazon valley to Bolivia : Chiquitos (*D'Orb.*) : S.E. Brazil (*Max.*).



J. Jemms. lith.

M & N Hanba. imp.

DACNIS VENUSTA.